The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A system in a computing environment for generating a representation of business policy, comprising:

means for storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;

means for storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules from the compilation of business rules;

means for generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and

means for interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

2. The system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

mean for storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of products from a master list of products; and

means for generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list of products.

3. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of tiers, each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

4. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic elements which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

5. The system as defined in Claim 4, in which the product list filter is a dynamic element.

6. The system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking contract elements and the links.

CA9-2000-0068

16

7. A method of generating a representation of business policy, comprising the steps of:

    a. storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;

    b. storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules from the compilation of business rules;

    c. generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and

    d. interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

8. The method as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

    e. storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of products from a master list of product; and

    f. generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list of products.

9. The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of tiers, each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

10. The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic elements which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

11. The method as defined in Claim 10, in which the product list filter is a dynamic content element.

12. The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking contract elements and the links.

1   13.   A system for governing conduct of business activities over a computer network pursuant to

2   a business contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising:

3   a communications interface for receiving information; and

4   means for storing the business contract;

5   means for receiving the information; and

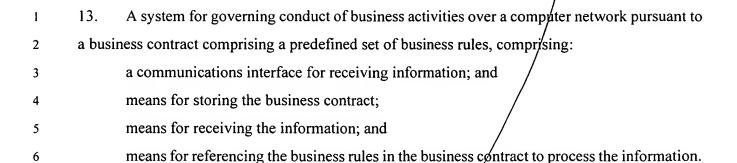6   means for referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.
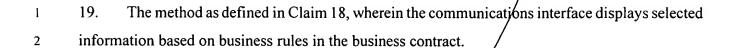

1   14.   The system as defined in Claim 13, further comprising means for generating at least one

2   document processed according to the business rules in the business contract.

1   15.   The system as defined in Claim 13, wherein the communications interface displays selected

2   information based on the business rules in the business contract.

1   16.   The system as defined in Claim 15, wherein the business contract contains representation

2   criteria comprising product selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, and the

3   communications interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a

4   master product list.

1   17.   A method of conducting business activities over a computer network pursuant to a business

2   contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising the steps of:

3   a.   storing the business rules;

4   b.   receiving information via a communications interface; and

5   c.   referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.

1   18.   The method as defined in Claim 17, comprising the further step of:

2   d.   generating at least one document processed according to the business rules in the

3   business contract.

CA9-2000-0068

1   19.   The method as defined in Claim 18, wherein the communications interface displays selected

2   information based on business rules in the business contract.

1   20.   The method as defined in Claim 19, further comprising the step of:

2   e.   providing the business contract with representation criteria comprising product

3   selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, wherein the communications

4   interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a

5   master product list.